

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 21

February 16, 1956 -
June 19, 1956

0795

February 16, 1956

Dear Admiral Yarnell:

I am returning herewith the envelope containing your Christmas card from Admiral Sadler which you loaned me.

I availed myself of part of it, as I had forecast to you, and it was received with loud acclaim. Admiral Sadler really has a sense of humor. His remarks fitted in exactly with Dr. Frazer's remarks concerning the South.

You were very generous to allow me to have this, but I wasn't surprised that you were willing to do so. You are quite a fellow! I told everyone that it was from Admiral Sadler to you, which pleased many of them since many of them seemed to know both of you.

I hope that this letter finds you and yours in very good health. With best regards and with many thanks, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, USN(Ret)
62 Ayrault
Newport, R.I.

0796

February 16, 1956

Dear Mr. Moore:

Last week I was in Washington and invited several of my friends to dinner at the "Salle de Bois" restaurant. They refused on the grounds that the latter place was too expensive and suggested that, instead, we go to the Shoreham Hotel because it was more moderate and because it was more charming there.

In view of these representations, I took them to the Shoreham Hotel for dinner, arriving (I think) in the Blue Room at about 8:30 P.M. We had no intention of remaining for anything other than dinner. We ordered dinner and, needless to say, it was quite satisfactory and very nicely served.

Before the dinner was finished, the floor show came on, which floor show, by the way, was partially good and partially not so good. In fact, on occasions, the gentleman at the neighboring table held his hands over his ears.

We left (I think) at about 10:30 P.M. You can imagine my surprise, on receiving my bill, to discover that added to it was the price of the cover charge (as well as a tax on the cover charge) for a total of \$7.20.

I objected to this and was informed by, I believe, one of the assistant head-waiters, that the rules in this regard had been changed some months ago and that the bill was correct.

0797

February 16, 1956

I paid the bill, but I am writing to advise you that such practices are not in accordance with my previous understanding, nor of my guests, who are residents of Washington.

If this cover charge addition to my bill was correct, I am afraid that many of my friends will no longer be seen at the Shoreham.

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral
U.S. Navy (Retired)

Mr. Gardner Moore,
The Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

0798

February 16, 1956

Dear Jack:

Yesterday, I received a telephone call from San Francisco from your friend and mine, Joe Sullivan--officially known as James Joseph Sullivan.

He was quite concerned because he had reason to believe that he had not been promoted to Captain by the Naval Reserve Selection Board. I was surprised to hear this because I thought that an officer of the caliber of Joe Sullivan, with a fine war record, who had contributed so much in recent years to the Navy--Joe is a National Director of the Navy League--who is a very prominent citizen of San Francisco, and, finally, who has completed all of his required work, should not have been overlooked.

✓ I called Admiral Romoser, the officer in charge of Naval Reserves in the Pentagon, and he was as surprised as I. Why Joe was not promoted I do not know, but I should appreciate it if you, in view of your Naval Reserve contacts, could find out why he was passed over. I shall also endeavor to discover the reason because I think the Navy needs men like Sullivan.

I always understood that it was a cardinal policy of Admiral Carney's, and also of Admiral Burke's, to build up the Navy League. How, in Heaven's Name then, can the Navy build up such an organization if the very men who run it are passed over?

I don't like to bother you with this, but I hope that you will look into it, and if there is anything that can be done next year to straighten out Sullivan's position, I hope that it can be accomplished. While I know nothing about what motivated the Selection Board, I understand, from Joe, that it must have been something important for they selected some commanders for captain in his area who had never been out of the Country. In other words, they fought the War in the U.S.

I will be in New York on March 6th to attend the great affair of the Long Island University. If I don't get to New York before then, I hope that I shall see you at that time.

0799

February 16, 1956

When passing through New York last Wednesday I called you on the telephone but missed you; however, I had the good fortune to encounter "Babe" and she and I had quite a chat. Whether she knows it or not, she is one of my pals!

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral John J. Bergen, USNR
40 Wall Street
New York, N.Y.

0800

17 February 1956

Dear Dick:

I have been in receipt of your very friendly letter of February 1st for a couple of weeks. I have been trying to organize myself so that I could get down there and I now feel sure that I shall be able to do so.

I have told Rip Struble that I hoped that our committee for the Navy "goat" would meet at this time also in order that I would be able to "kill two birds with one stone". The reference to the Navy goat is this: I am a member of the Annapolis Class of '15 "Navy Goat Committee". The class has decided to give the Naval Academy, as a reminder of our presence there from 1911 to 1915, a statue of the Navy goat. We hope that it will be placed outside (somewhere in the grounds) where it will be seen and be an inspiration to the Midshipmen. The question as to whether it will be a goat rampant or just a goat, and the matter of the size, etc., will be settled presently. Admiral Struble is the Chairman of the committee and I am, as usual, one of the workers.

I look forward to seeing you with a great deal of interest. I haven't seen you and Helen for a long time, which is not a proper way to treat an old friend.

I am interested to note in this rather formal letter of yours to me that Mr. Meany is to speak. He is quite a man, and I think will be alright as a leader of labor but, like we feel about a lot of things, what will happen when Meany goes? My feeling has been for a long time that it may be necessary for the Government to deny mergers of the size of the AFL-CIO. Businesses under the Sherman Act should not get over-powerful; likewise labor under the Bates Act would not be allowed to get over-powerful either.

I will forward my official acceptance to your party today.

New Subject: Your friend and mine, Joe Sullivan, was not promoted to Captain by the Reserve Selection Board which has been meeting for the past few weeks. I don't know why this was so because he has a very fine record, is a National Director of the Navy League and Heaven knows what else in San Francisco. Its effect has been devastating to Joe and perhaps will be to the Navy League out there as well.

0801

17 February 1956

Why Joe wasn't selected I don't know; I have written to Jack Bergen about it to see if it can't be straightened out next year, but it is unlikely at the moment that, in so far as Joe is concerned, this will help as he is thinking of resigning.

This Selection Board was headed by a Reserve officer, Admiral Jacoby--I don't know him, but I think that this is the first time that the Reserves have headed their own selection board. Whether this is a good thing or not, I don't know, but it could very well have been the background of the Jose Sullivan case. I don't know whether anything can be done about this now because I have no idea what the rules are. However, I hear that the board has not as yet been dissolved.

With best regards to you and to Helen, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral R. L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

0802

17 February 1956

Dear Rip:

It was a great pleasure to hear that you had had such a fine meeting at Annapolis and that things had gone along about as you had hoped. I also think that, if you can do it, your idea of having certain artists submit their concepts of what this goat should look like would be sensible. It certainly seems fair. However, artists (sculptors) being as they are, one never knows how they will react to such things.

As I told you, I hope to be down in New York for the Long Island University dinner at the Waldorf Astoria on March 6th, at which time perhaps your committee will be able to meet. If not, I will get down another day.

I was very sorry to note that orders were being issued for your relief. It seems too bad that we all have to disappear from the scene, but since it is the way of life I cannot see what we can do about it. With your departure and with Frog doing likewise, Lynde will be the sole occupant of the seat of grandeur. We will all do our best to see that he is not too lonely there. There are a lot of advantages in youth in the Navy and Lynde's--a year on everybody--is now paying dividends.

With best regards to you and Hazel, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral A.D. Struble, USN
Room 2111, 2 Park Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

0803

February 27, 1956

Dear Jocelyn:

I noticed over the weekend that Standard Oil of California and Anderson-Pritchard Oil, also of California, had both split their stock, and that Western States Life which I presume is CalWestern, had declared a thirty-three and one-third per cent stock dividend. I am mentioning this to you because it clearly indicates that you had the inside track on a lot of these stocks--to my profit, and for which I give you thanks.

I got a letter the other day from Dr. Sprague telling me that I could exercise more than I use to, and this is gratifying. He says that my heart is normal in size, and that my blood pressure is also normal. Therefore, he didn't have much to offer. He did suggest that he wasn't trying to reduce my weight too much, but was trying to keep me from having any additional fat; i.e., to prevent fat from getting in between the muscles, which is bad. I told him a little about you and your problems. He said, "I am also glad to learn that your brother is holding his own." In other words, both you and I are holding our own. Let's hope Ike does also!

I still am not sure what to do about that insurance policy I sent to you. I do not think that what they offered me is too good; on the other hand, it may have advantages which I can not see from here.

Give my best regards to Martha and to any of your family nearby. With best regards, I am,
as ever,

Your loving brother,

Mr. H. Jocelyn Bates
2756 Tenth Avenue
Sacramento 18, Calif.

0804

February 27, 1956

Dear Dick:

I certainly enjoyed talking with you on the telephone, and was pleased to learn that things are going so well with you and your organization, as well as with you and your family. You are quite a fellow, and I really enjoyed talking to you even though it cost me plenty of dough; I am unable to charge it to L.I. University or to J.J. Bergen, or what have you! You financial geni have a habit of spending an expense account admirably. Not having one, I have never learned how to do it.

I look forward to being at your gathering at the Waldorf Astoria on Tuesday, March 6th, and I shall be happy to sit on the dias. It would be nice to sit beside Helen but I wouldn't get much in edgewise there anyway, so, as you recommend, I will sit on the dias.

Things are going along well here, but slow. However, I think the results are well worth the effort.

I have recently been visited by Admiral Hewitt. He comes up here and reviews my thought processes and, fortunately, generally agrees with what I have done. I gave a short dinner for the McCormicks and the Hewitts the other night at a new restaurant here (The Red Door). It was quite a success for both of them spent the whole night discussing their European experiences. Since I have not had any such experiences since 1914, I was completely disarmed and remained a listener (which is an unusual situation forme).

0805

February 27, 1956

With best regards to you and Helen,
I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral R. L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

0806

February 27, 1956

Dear Sam:

I want to thank very much for the copy of Volume X, The Atlantic Battle Won.

I shall study it with great interest because our failure in the early days to solve the submarine problem caused frightful losses to Allied shipping, which losses might well have been prevented. I feel that this is so because, having solved the problems myself and apparently having noted that Commodore did likewise, it seems clear that other people should have been able to do as well.

I appreciate the fact that you did put in the book that I had solved this problem. However, if you have a re-write, I would like to put in a reference at the bottom that my letter was not to the President of the Naval War College but to the Secretary, Operational Proposals Board.

I still don't understand how you can be so effective as you are in writing so many volumes, and having them received so well. You are an artist, as well as a historian!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM S.E. Morison, USNR
44 Brimmer Street
Boston 8, Mass.

0807

1 March 1956

Dear Joe:

I haven't heard a word either from you, from Washington, or from Jack Bergen (who, apparently, is at sea on a short cruise) about what happened in your case concerning the selection board. I certainly hope that the Secretary has been able to discover the problem and that you have been informed accordingly.

The general feeling here is that most likely you didn't have adequate credits (although you think you did). It seems impossible, with your fine record, that you could be passed over by any board unless this were the case. On the other hand, if you did have enough credits, it is my opinion that it was probably the Naval Reserves themselves who felt that you were perhaps becoming a little too popular in the public eye and they, whether consciously or unconsciously, took action to slow down your progress.

In this connection, I have heard it said more than once that the reason some officers of the regular Navy were not promoted was because the Board salted them away for a year, the idea being that, although capable (sometimes extremely so), the Board felt that they were a little too active (perhaps in their own interest).

There are several factors which motivate a man: one is love of Country; another, love of family; and, finally, personal and human interest in himself. If one doesn't have an interest in oneself, one is going to find it very difficult to advance. However, you know and, if you have read a recent article in the Naval Institute Proceedings written by a young LTJG entitled "The Division Officer and the Division" or words to that effect, you will have noted in this article that the division officer claims that there is general tendency within the division to keep everybody equal, and that an effort was being made by the "group" to insure that each man did about the same. You will note also that the same thing applies to a degree to labor unions. The whole idea is to maintain a general average--often a low average--whereby the better qualified can have no advantage at all.

0000

1 March 1956

I hope that this is not so in your case and that your problem was "not enough credits".

I wouldn't be too concerned about coming to the Naval War College for Global Strategy; you were invited, everybody admires and respects you, they want you to come; so, for Heaven's sake, show up! Even Willie Doyle is asking when you will get here; I said in about three months.

I know exactly how you felt under the original impact of the blow, but, as you know, the elastic limit of metal or anything else for that matter is the point beyond which it cannot be stretched and still return to its normal position. Certainly, you haven't been "stretched" that far. I am sure the elastic limit of a Sullivan is so great that, once stretched, it will return and "blast them back into place on the rebound".

With best regards, and with hopes that you will take it easy, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

CDR J. J. Sullivan, USNR
314 San Leandro Way
San Francisco, California

0809

5 March 1956

Dear Henry:

I have had the good fortune recently to see the notes that you have sent to certain members of the staff but notably to Mrs. King. Evidently you have been having a very enjoyable trip despite weather conditions which have not been up to the standard you expected. Also, it appears you have been received in a most friendly fashion by the different commands and have used your visit with them to discuss the matters which you consider most important for your study. I look forward with a lot of interest to what you bring back but in particular to your conference with Admiral Fechteler.

I hope you won't come back and make a speech similar to one Commodore Hank Bowdey gave recently at the Alumni dinner. He omitted everything unusual on the trip, such as events in areas visited, or strange happenings of interest to the Nation as a whole. Instead he limited his remarks to people he ran into and whom we surmised he had met on the Canadian Pacific Liner. This went on for well over an hour and the general comment afterwards was the Hank might just as well have stayed home if this was all that impressed him.

I was quite interested in seeing what impressed Hank. I think that his lack of interest in events and natural beauty is an indication that he is getting old. From this I don't want you to think that he isn't a pretty nice fellow, 'cause he is, and it was nice of him to talk to the Alumni. But, I was not interested in hearing of his going to Munich and meeting Jim Brown, or to Austria and meeting Jim Brown again, believe it or not. I am going on at length about this so that when you come back you will have something to say that will be of value to your friends and to the community.

The War College is getting on very well and at present we are having presentations on Amphibious Warfare which are being received very well. The presentations going on now are from the Amphibious Command Atlantic. This week the Marines will give their presentations.

Our weather has not been any better than yours, so I would not be too critical. We have had rain, sleet, and snow; and once in a while sunshine.

0810

I have been getting along well although the progress is slow because of the increased number of dispatches one encounters as the major battles draw near.

Mrs. King has been quite wonderful in your absence. Her cooperation in looking out for others is unusual in this day when no one wants to do any more than they have to and no one wants to do anything for anybody else.

You might accidentally run into Daisy O'Donnell and her side kick Muriel Sands. They were going to Austria and I suggested that they bring their woolies. Whether they will actually go there or will change their itinerary I do not know. Don't be startled if you see them as they will be happy to see you!

I have to go to New York twice this week and it irritates me no end. The first time I am going to be a guest of honor at the Long Island University \$100 per plate dinner at the Waldorf Astoria, and will sit on the dais. After this I am going to consult an artist about painting Admiral McCormick. The artist, Albert Murray, seems finicky. The second time I have to attend a meeting making plans to present a bronze navy goat to the Naval Academy. I am on the committee to choose the design and the sculptor.

Trinity church seems to be doing well. Reverend Ballard is going to give a talk on the Dead Sea Scrolls at Quendecim next week. In addition he was elected a member of Quendecim. I did this myself because I feel that somehow Ballard got off on the wrong foot, but as people get to know him better they should enjoy him. I find him to be a fine fellow.

I want to wish you happiness on your continued voyage and hope that all will be well with you upon your return.

With best regards to you and Izzy, I am as ever,

Your old friend,

Richard W. Bates

Rear Admiral H.E. Eccles, USN, Ret'd.
c/o American Express
Florence, Italy

0811

March 9, 1956

Dear Anni:

I imagine that you had thought that I had forgotten you but that is far from the truth. It is so because of the delay incident to trying to discover information about the destroyers as per your request. It has been difficult to obtain the information you wish as most flag officers like to think that all of their ships are perfect.

Admiral Joseph Daniel (Commander Destroyers Atlantic Fleet) was away most of the time and, when he finally returned, I saw him for about three minutes and then he disappeared again. At the present time, I think he is in Guantanamo, Cuba.

However, one of the destroyer flotilla admirals (Rear Admiral Frank Virden, USN) a very fine officer and a very good friend of mine, finally (this morning) brought over some papers which should fulfill your needs.

He says:

"After a careful review of the list, the following good numbers are probably of most interest because their present skippers should be aboard for sometime to come:

ROOKS	-DESDIV 201
N.K. PERRY (DDR 833)	-DESDIV 82
HYMAN	-DESDIV 121
WILLIS A. LEE (DL4)	-Flagship DESFLOT 6
WILKINSON (DL5)	-Flagship DESFLOT 2"

Of the above ships, the N.K. PERRY has just returned from the Mediterranean and it should be on this coast longer than the other Newport-based ships. The LEE will go to the Naval Shipyard Boston for regular overhaul the latter part of April and will

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March 9, 1958

not be out until mid-August due to extensive repairs."

I hope that the above will satisfy your interests in the matter and that my information is not too late. Finally, I am enclosing a book which Admiral Virden sent to me and which might be of great interest to you. It is for your retention.

With the hope that the above is what you desire and with best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. John Nicholas Brown
505 Benefit Street
Providence, R.I.

0813

12 March 1956

Dear Hutch:

Having been designated by the "Goat Committee" to report upon the moreorless "social" nature of the activities of the committee on their second meeting (which occurred in New York on March 9th, 1956), I am seizing the "bull by the horns" as it were to write to you thereon for publication in the class bulletin if you so desire.

If you will remember, the first meeting occurred in Annapolis and was principally based upon the possible location of the monument. I was unable to be present.

This second meeting was designed to discuss sculptors and to settle certain working rules relating to the type of goat desired, etc.

The following members showed up: Edward (Ted) Breed, Frederick G. (Dick) Richards, Claude C. Vickrey, Gerard H. (Grot) Wood, Arthur D. (Rip) Struble, and myself. In addition, we were assisted by CDR Ben Lauff, USN, who is Rip Struble's aide for the UN. We were also honored by the presence of Frances Wood, Grot's wife, who apparently felt that it was unwise to permit Grot to join his classmates as a game of "hot-hand" or something equally outrageous would likely result. I think she was quite right to come and her presence was very enjoyable and her counsel helpful.

Rip has a very nice house on the Naval Base. I understand that it was originally the home of the Head of the Hospital. He also has another house which is being fixed up for him as ComEastSeaFront. Rip, at the present time, seems quite concerned as to which house he is to live in, and the decision required in this matter is wearing him down. However, he is doing a good job of refitting, in a mild way, the ComEastSeaFront's house which I think he expects to live in for the short time that he will continue on the active list.

The meeting was a great success. Rip's house is delightful. It would have been more so had Hazel Struble been there, but she has become a grandmother again and was away visiting her new grandchild.

As the guests arrived, they were greeted by Rip, who saw to it that they were given a very good drink of the kind they preferred. Rip's Filipino staff did excellently in this regard. I got somewhat concerned about this because

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12 March 1956

I realized that if we took enough drinks before conducting our meeting, the results of the meeting might be somewhat different than was expected. So I suggested, while we were still having cocktails, that we commence the meeting. Rip accepted this idea with alacrity and immediately started the discussions.

The first thing we discovered was that every member of the committee had a private sculptor for whom he personally was willing to battle against all comers. In fact, one of the members was so active as to have a briefcase filled with the work of his chosen artist. I was surprised to discover that this member's wife had another artist--clearly feminine--whom she preferred over her husband's choice! If we cannot settle matters at home, how can we settle them in committee?

I won't argue about my sculptor because I came back with him on the "plane" later--we met by accident--and I was delighted to discover that he more or less concurred with views of our committee, which will be expressed to you by Rip.

Commander Ben Lauff was very helpful. Rip had assigned him the job of consulting with artists, artist guilds, etc. relating to sculptors. He not only came up with some pretty good ideas but even brought along a model which some young Italian artist had made up for him. This model was made of clay, about a foot and a half wide and a foot and a half high. It was very clever, although somewhat rough. Ben said that this young fellow was so anxious to get the assignment that he was willing to sleep with the "goat" to understand the goat's habits. My sculptor, on the other hand, said he wanted to go down and survey the goat enclosure and study the build and character of the goat. He wasn't particularly interested in parking with him in the goat enclosure.

What suggestions will be offered by other sculptors I do not know because their supporters seemed to be a little weak on this point.

After the cocktails we went into dinner where Rip did himself proud. We had a wonderful dinner and everybody was so pleased about it that no serious discussions arose thereafter. Everybody agreed on certain fundamentals which, as I said, Rip will send to you.

Ted Breed and I remained overnight with Rip and returned in the morning to our respective areas; myself, back to Newport, and Ted to Philadelphia. I couldn't see why Ted was so anxious to return to Philadelphia, but it seems that he is a great skater and belongs to a skating club where

0815

12 March 1956

Tenley Albright is the big star. Ted skates with her and I feel sure that he felt that, even for the sake of the goat, he didn't want to give up that opportunity! Being a bachelor and understanding, I can't say that I blame him.

I don't know when our next meeting will occur but, if the next one is as successful as this one, I can assure you that all members had better be present. I came down to this meeting with the request from Lynde McCormick that the goat be rampant. Without stepping into Rip's field, I can say that everyone had the same view so that there was no argument on this matter whatsoever.

With best regards, and with hopes that this covers the picture adequately, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Como M.W. Hutchinson, Jr., USN(Ret)
6 Acton Place,
Annapolis, Md.

0816

22 March 1956

Dear Dick:

I suppose that by now you have returned from your trip to California. I know that Bobby Haylor is such a good friend of yours that you couldn't possibly have failed to have had an enjoyable holiday. You certainly deserved it because you have worked long and hard to reorganize and elevate Long Island University. Helen also deserved it for her share of your great success!

I am writing to you to tell you of how much pleasure I had in being one of your guests at that great affair at the Waldorf Astoria. Needless to say, I enjoyed meeting everybody there, including that labor leader (Mr. Potofsky (?))--I like to know what these men are like--who criticized President Eisenhower, General Van Fleet, and myself, by saying that our dinner clothes were out of date because they didn't have a shawl lapel, rather than the sharp lapel. I told him that he was "cuckoo", that my dinner suit had been built within a few months of that date. He tried to say that my tailor was no good and that Brooks Brothers were fine and would not make out of date suits like mine. The next morning I visited Brooks Brothers where I was informed that they made both kinds but that their higher trade preferred the sharp lapel. I am afraid that Mr. Potofsky was trying to drum up trade for the Garment Workers Union.

I thought that the party was extremely successful and, in particular, I felt that Mr. Meany's talk was very much to the point. I feel that the writeup in the press was not what it should have been, but there probably was a reason for "semi-ignoring" it. There were comments on it, however, particularly in the New York Journal American.

I had quite a talk over the telephone yesterday with Mr. Forsyth Wickes. He wanted to know how you were. He also said that he had a great affection for you and missed having our "threesome" dinners. I told him I did too, to which he replied

0817

22 March 1956

that perhaps we could get together. His hours are so bad for a man working in the War College that I don't have much chance to see him.

I want to wish you and Helen a very happy Easter. I am sure that your estate will begin to bloom about that time and all will be well. Helen, I know, if that is so, will be in Seventh Heaven!

As for ourselves, we have been snowed in here quite badly. There is snow every where. One officer at the Naval War College (Captain Jung), who headed the Logistics branch, died from a heart attack incurred during pushing a car. He was only forty-nine years old. You have read in the press, I suppose, about the destroyers. The whole thing is very unhappy and, as an old sailor, I can't approve of what went on, but perhaps it couldn't have been avoided.

Looking forward to seeing you soon, and with best regards to you and Helen, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral R.L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President,
Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

0818

22 March 1956

Dear Frank:

This rather belated note is to thank you very much for the papers which you sent to me as per my request based on a similar request from Mrs. John Nicholas Brown.

I forwarded the papers to Mrs. Brown and received, in return, a letter from her today which read, in part, as follows:

"You are an angel to provide me with just the information desired on the destroyer situation in Newport, and I shall hasten to turn it over to my mid."

Since I only forwarded the papers which you had given to me, I will have to disavow the "angel" appellation and give it to you to whom it properly belongs.

Apparently, the young man is confused at the moment as to where to go since he has been offered an assignment in a cruiser and, according to Mrs. Brown, he is engaged in trying to choose between a cruiser in the Mediterranean and a destroyer here in Newport. He seems to forget that destroyers in Newport also go to the Mediterranean.

I was sorry that I didn't get a chance to talk to you on Sunday. You seemed quite moved by the Rector's sermon and by his Service for the Navy as, very frankly, was I. I commended him on his sermon and thanked him as well.

I hope everything is turning out well with you and that the destroyer problem, which had everyone concerned, is ironing out to your satisfaction.

0819

22 March 1956

As you know, you are extremely well-thought of here at the Naval War College, and every one of us looks forward to your continued success.

With best regards, and with many thanks, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM Frank Virden, USN
Commander,
Destroyer Flotilla SIX,
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

0820

April 6, 1956

Dear Dr. Sprague:

Today, I decided that I had better "take the bull by the horns" and send you the amount owed, \$50. I regret that I didn't send it before, but I thought that I had. I sincerely hope you have not been inconvenienced by this "lapse of memory", once in a while, I suppose all of us have a right to have a "lapse of memory" and, when it can be a "lapse" involving \$50, it may be a very desirable one.

Things are going along very well with me here, and I look forward to my continued improvement, at least in my manner of life.

Dr. Driscoll, at the Naval Hospital, told me that he had met you somewhere (at a medical society meeting, I believe, in Virginia). Then someone else, I think Dr. Mike Sullivan, said he had seen you on a medical panel. Both of these ventures pleased me since I have insisted that a man of your brilliance has got to be better known by the public, and this can be best accomplished by having the whole medical profession become alerted to your superior qualities. Doctors like to have someone to go to for advice just as patients do; they are human also, although a lot of people don't think they are!

I spoke to Dr. Driscoll about your willingness to come and give a talk at the Naval Hospital here. He said that he wanted that to occur, so, one of these days, I suppose you will either hear from him by letter or he will contact you by other means.

With best regards, and with hopes that you are not staying away from your office too long and have not needed these fifty bucks, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

0821

25 April 1956

Dear Spike:

I received today an invitation from you to be present at your change of command ceremony on Tuesday, the first of May. I was very pleased, and yet unhappy, to receive this invitation. I was pleased because it indicated that you had not forgotten your old friend up here in Newport. I was unhappy first because it means that you are retiring from active duty in the Navy, and secondly because I cannot be present to witness the ceremony and to say goodbye.

As you know, I have served with you back and forth in different commands over the many years, and I have formed quite an affection for you and your accomplishments. I therefore feel that it is too bad that an officer, when he reaches the age of 62 years, no matter what his mental abilities, experiences, and health condition may be, is forced to retire to give way for others. I am not sure that this practice is sound as it seems to me that we could accomplish more if we did as the Germans often did; they held their top-flight commanders for many years. If you will look into the records, you will find that many of the high commanders in the German armies were generally in their late sixties and even in their seventies.

Since the next time I see you you will be retired, I want to seize this opportunity to tell you of how proud you can be of your accomplishments. You have served your Country and your Navy in a most distinguished manner in both peace and in war and the Navy knows it well. Therefore, you can look back on your Naval career with the satisfaction of duty well done.

0822

25 April 1956

I don't know what you are going to do after you retire, or if you have any plans of any kind, but, knowing you as I do, I am certainly confident that you will not sit around "on your fanny" no matter how comfortable that may be, and that you will find something to do to keep your mind active and your health good.

With best regards to you and to "Kay",
I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

VADM Frank G. Fahrion, USN
Commander Amphibious Force,
U.S. Atlantic Fleet,
c/o Fleet Post Office,
New York, N.Y.

0823

4 May 1956

Dear Dick:

This note is to tell you and Helen of how much I enjoyed last weekend with you and, in particular, of how pleased I was to meet the whole family together. Yours is quite a family and when your children travel as far as they did; i.e. from Princeton to Brooklyn and back to Princeton again in a matter of hours, it shows that there is affection within the family for one another. This does not always obtain. I have seen many case where members of families show no interest in one another.

I was very pleased to note that Spring had arrived. Certainly, it is showing signs of coming up here, but it is still long delayed. I heard the forecasters say yesterday, or the day before, that Spring was a month behind schedule. The most remarkable thing about your Spring down there was the "rear" under the cherry tree which we discovered was made by the wings of the bees. Frankly, it is surprising that the bees knew about that cherry tree so soon. If I were you, I would look into this thing because perhaps you have a "spy" on your estate. If you find that you have such a spy, I suggest you ascertain whether he confines his information solely to the bees in one hive or does he let other hives know as well. In other words, is the intelligence general or is it specific?

The information that I got from you, Dick, relative to your Washington "goings on" arrived at a most opportune time. We have been hearing rumors of this matter for some time. What will be done about it I don't know. However, as I told you I would, I put the matter 'on the line'.

0824

4 May 1956

I have been worrying about you and your Cadillac. I have been wondering if it is a good thing for you to still drive a car where it is so hard for your friends to get in the back seat. I am not sure that it is a good thing for the President of a well-known university to drive such a car for, if one of your guests happens to fall out of the car, you will be sued. Therefore, in order to protect you, I will take the car off your hands for \$3,000. And, if that isn't enough, I am willing to go to \$3,100. Mind you, I am only doing this because I want to help you out so that you won't be sued by some disgruntled passenger!!!

With best regards to you and Helen, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral R.L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President,
Long Island University,
385 Flatbush Avenue,
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

0825

9 May 1956

Dear General Pate:

I am enclosing herewith an article from the Newport News concerning the situation at Paris Island, S.C. Very frankly, as an admirer of the Marines over many years, I feel that certain publicists, military as well as civil, have seized upon this opportunity to attack a Corps which, from its time of inception, has always represented the finest military virtues.

Therefore, I personally resent articles of this nature because they are designed to arouse indignation rather than to support command.

I certainly don't believe any of this, and I am sure that all of the officers who have seen it feel as I do.

I am writing to you to express to you my personal confidence in the Marine Corps and to tell you that I think that all of us here feel that the manner in which you have handled this unhappy situation has been outstanding in every way and should resound to the everlasting benefit of the Marine Corps.

However, I have noticed recently a tendency to use this case as a means of criticising the Corps. I am afraid that you will have to watch the situation closely to insure that the whole affair is not blown up out of its proper proportion.

0826

9 May 1956

With best regards to you and with
regrets that articles of this nature
are being published, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Ret)

General Randolph McC. Pate, USMC
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps,
U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters,
Washington 25, D.C.

0827

10 May 1956

Dear Bob:

Although I have known for a long time that you were slated to succeed Bill Fechteler as CinCSouth, it was with considerable satisfaction that I noted the orders the other day assigning you to this command.

I think that it is fine that you have been given this assignment. Clearly, it is of extraordinary importance today and should continue to be so for some time. Therefore, your selection must have been made with recognition of this important situation. I realize that during recent years you were also out in the Far East under a similarly important situation. I feel, therefore, that your conduct under pressure has merited you another command of consequence.

I have, needless to say, greatly enjoyed my association with you as Op-03. You have been extremely understanding and helpful to me and I want to go on record in appreciation.

With best wishes for your continued success in your new assignment, I am, with best regards, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

VADM R. P. Briscoe, USN
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0828

10 May 1956

Dear Don:

I have been wanting to write to you for some time; in fact, ever since I noted that you had been assigned to command the SIXTH Fleet. What a wonderful assignment!

As you know, ever since my association with you here at the Naval War College I have always had an affection for you and a feeling that you would move up the ladder as your merit became recognized.

Very frankly, you have moved up even a little faster than I had anticipated! Nevertheless, I feel sure that, because of the pressure existing in the Middle East, the Department felt it necessary to place in command there someone who, having been educated at the Naval War College, the National War College, and the Pentagon as well as at sea, understood well the many and diverse problems associated primarily with the Mediterranean.

Your's is a difficult assignment and one which I am sure you will discharge with outstanding success.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM H. D. Felt, USN
Ass't Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0829

14 June 1956

~~copy one to the Reserve Officers' office, CDR Lyons, who handled your orders.~~

Dear Jack:

The War College is quiet -- very quiet for two reasons. One, the Global Strategy Discussions are over, the Civilians and Reserve Officers have departed and two, the students graduated today. I am, therefore, sitting in my office with Admiral Robbin's secretary, Miss Janet Wilson, and she and I are about all that is left in this big establishment this afternoon. Don't shed a tear because the boys will be hard at work tomorrow.

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your presence here at the College this year and to restate what I have said every year which is to the effect that you are quite an addition to our Global Strategy Discussions and have always been very helpful in giving us the benefit of your advice and the kindness of your heart in entertaining many of the guests.

We think that the Global Strategy Discussions this year were very good indeed and we have reason to believe that the general opinion about them from the visiting firemen was highly satisfactory. I received two letters today, one from Vice Admiral Davis who was the head of the Isthmian Steamship Lines; the other was from Dr. Manchester who is one of the Deans and is a historian at Duke University. Both of them enjoyed their stay here very much. However Dr. Manchester went further than to discuss the Global Strategy. He discussed my work here and insisted that I finish it, saying that (a) it was going to be singularly valuable in a short time and (b) what was required in work of this nature was a writer of competence, experience and intellectual honesty and that from what he could discern I was just that sort of rare bird. I was quite pleased to receive this letter as it indicated that perhaps what I am doing is receiving acknowledgement from other sources than the immediate War College groups with which I am associated.

I sent out your candy boxes to the people I felt you know best. Of course, in accordance with your basic wishes most of them went to the library, but I did send one to Miss O'Harr who handled things for you down at the Officers' Club, and I sent one to the Reserve Officers' office, CDR Lyons, who handled your orders.

0830

Likewise, I gave one to those who handled the orders in the Chief Clerk's Office. Everyone was delighted and one recipient made the brilliant remark - " She said,

Candy
Is dandy
But liquor
Is quicker."

I am glad to note that the stock market and the national situation is calm now that Mr. Eisenhower has improved in health. I look for him to run again and to win readily. However, I feel that to accomplish this all Republicans and others Eisenhower-minded must vote.

With best regards to you and with appreciation of the good fellowship which you brought with you and which you shared with me, and with best regards to "Babe", I am as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral John J. Bergen, USNR
40 Wall Street
New York, N. Y.

0831

19 June 1956

Dear Joe:

On Saturday last I had the good fortune to be a guest of yours and of "Captain" Hayler on the JOHN PAUL JONES. I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed this trip, how beautifully everything was handled on board, and of my happiness at having wisely chosen this ship in lieu of all of the others to view this Bermuda Race. You didn't invite me on your barge!

"Captain" Hayler has a fine ship. The crew were very courteous and understanding, the guests were very nicely taken care of, there were no distinctions between one guest and another, and all in all the trip proved to be most successful.

I was quite interested in the habitability of the ship. I thought the crew mess hall where I had luncheon was very cleverly done and in so far as I was concerned, a most satisfactory innovation. The crew seemed to take to it readily. I was glad to see that under this messing system the crew are served a standard bill of fare rather than a choice. In my opinion, this makes for simplicity and good sense.

"Captain" Hayler handled the ship very well indeed, keeping the passengers and the crew informed of all events, I think everyone felt that they were on a personally conducted tour.

Thank you very much for inviting me and for inviting, because of me, Mr. and Mrs. John Payson Adams and Como. and Mrs. Howard B. Mecleary who took the place of Mr. and Mrs. John Millar at the last moment. In this connection, lest you be upset over the invitation extended to the Meclearys, I think you should know that I notified your Aide that the Millars could not come and he promptly said that since it was too late to invite someone else I could bring someone if I wished. So I brought the Meclearys.

Let me thank you again for everything, and let me commend to you the good ship JOHN PAUL JONES..

Best regards,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral J. C. Daniel, USN
Commander Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet
USS YOSEMITE

0832